

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Sally Yageric

Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse

831-2298

A ***“CONVERSATION WITH THE COMMUNITY”***, hosted by the Grand Island One Island,

One Team, One Dream, to be Drug-Free Coalition, will address the growing problem of prescription drug abuse. You are invited to join the conversation for coffee and dessert at the Grand Island Fire Company, 2275 Baseline Road at 7:00pm on Tuesday, April 16th. Grand Island Supervisor Mary Cooke will welcome a panel of experts comprised of Dr. Robert Whitney, Erie County Sheriff Tim Howard, NYS Trooper Chris Pyc, DEA Agent –In-Charge Dale Kazparek, NY National Guard Counter-Drug Task Force Specialist Justin Chernogorec, Town Justice Sybil Kennedy, Grand Island teacher Bob Simpson and student, Kim Gacon, who will share opinions and experiences with the audience. Channel 4’s Luke Moretti will moderate the panel discussion and facilitate the question and answer period that follows.

Prescription drug abuse is a serious problem in our society. Surveys show that 20% of high school students are abusing prescription drugs, drugs that many first obtained from the family medicine cabinet. While parents and caregivers are the first line of defense in addressing this troubling trend, many are not aware that it even exists. Along with the panel of experts, the event will feature tables of resources for families to gather information that will help them to mount a campaign against this destructive epidemic.

The night will kick-off a 10-day campaign to fight the prescription drug abuse epidemic, which will include other educational opportunities for students, and will culminate with the bi-annual Drug Take Back Day at Town Hall on Saturday, April 27, 2013.

Here is your opportunity to become part of the solution. Join us and share your concerns and thoughts. The Grand Island Ministerium has taken the lead in helping to sponsor this event, as well as Duncan Donuts and Marco’s Italian Deli. The Coalition is hoping that others will come forward and get involved as well.

Volunteers are needed to help distribute information and flyers, man resource tables on the night of the event, assemble folders, invite people to the program, and for various other tasks. You can also get involved

by making a donation of cash or refreshments. If you would like to help, please call Sally Yageric at the Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse at 831-2298 or e-mail to Sally@eccpasa.org.